

## § 904.302

respect to the particular permit pertaining to the offense or nonpayment, and may also be applied to any NOAA permit held or sought by the permit holder, including permits for other activities or for other vessels. Examples of the application of this policy are the following:

(1) NOAA suspends Vessel A's fishing permit for nonpayment of a civil penalty pertaining to Vessel A. The owner of Vessel A buys Vessel B and applies for a permit for Vessel B to participate in the same or a different fishery. NOAA may withhold that permit until the sanction against vessel A is lifted.

(2) NOAA revokes a Marine Mammal Protection Act permit for violation of its conditions. The permit holder subsequently applies for a permit under the Endangered Species Act. NOAA may deny the ESA application.

(3) Captain X, an officer in Country Y's fishing fleet, is found guilty of assaulting an enforcement officer. NOAA may impose a condition on the permits of Country Y's vessels that they may not fish in the fishery conservation zone with Captain X aboard. (See § 904.320(c).)

(c) Sanction not extinguished by sale. [Reserved]

## § 904.302 Notice of permit sanction (NOPS).

(a) A NOPS will be served personally or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, on the permit holder. When a foreign fishing vessel is involved, service will be made on the agent authorized to receive and respond to any legal process for vessels of that country.

(b) The NOPS will set forth the sanction to be imposed, the bases for the sanction, and any opportunity for a hearing. It will state the effective date of the sanction, which will ordinarily not be earlier than 30 calendar days after the date of receipt of the NOPS (see § 904.322).

(c) Upon demand by an authorized enforcement officer, a permit holder must surrender a permit against which a sanction has taken effect. The effectiveness of the sanction, however, does not depend on surrender of the permit.

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## § 904.303 Notice of intent to deny permit (NIDP).

(a) NOAA may issue an NIDP if the applicant has been charged with a violation of a statute, regulation, or permit administered by NOAA.

(b) The NIDP will set forth the basis for its issuance and any opportunity for a hearing, and will be served in accordance with § 904.302(a).

(c) NOAA will not refund any fee(s) submitted with a permit application if an NIDP is issued.

(d) An NIDP may be issued in conjunction with or independent of a NOPS. Nothing in this section should be interpreted to preclude NOAA from initiating a permit sanction action following issuance of the permit, or from withholding a permit under § 904.310(c) or § 904.320.

## § 904.304 Opportunity for hearing.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the recipient of a NOPS or NIDP will be provided an opportunity for a hearing. The hearing may be combined with any other hearing under this part.

(b) There will be no opportunity for a hearing if, with respect to the violation that forms the basis for the NOPS or NIDP, the permit holder had a previous opportunity to participate as a party in a judicial or administrative hearing, whether or not the permit holder did participate, and whether or not such a hearing was held.

(c) If entitled to a hearing under this section, the recipient of a NOPS or NIDP will have 30 calendar days from receipt of the notice to request a hearing. A request for hearing must be dated and in writing. Failure to request a hearing within 30 days constitutes a waiver of the opportunity for a hearing.

(d) Even if no hearing is requested, NOAA may order a hearing if it will serve the interests of justice. This paragraph does not create any right to a hearing in addition to the right provided in paragraph (a) of this section.

## SANCTIONS FOR NONPAYMENT OF PENALTIES

## § 904.310 Nature of sanctions.

(a) NOAA may suspend a permit if:

(1) A civil penalty has been assessed against the permit holder under subparts B and C of this part, but the permit holder has failed to pay the penalty, or has defaulted on a payment agreement; or

(2) A criminal fine or other liability for violation of any of the statutes administered by NOAA has been imposed against the permit holder in a judicial proceeding, but payment has not been made.

(b) NOAA will suspend any permit issued to a foreign fishing vessel under section 204(b) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act under the circumstances set forth in paragraph (a) of this section.

(c) NOAA will withhold any other permit for which the permit holder applies if either condition in § 904.310(a) is applicable.

#### § 904.311 Compliance.

If the permit holder pays the fine or penalty in full or agrees to terms satisfactory to NOAA for payment:

(a) The suspension will not take effect;

(b) Any permit suspended under § 904.310 will be reinstated by affirmative order of NOAA; or

(c) Any application by the permit holder may be granted if the permit holder is otherwise qualified to receive the permit.

#### SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS

#### § 904.320 Nature of sanctions.

Subject to the requirements of this subpart, NOAA may take any of the following actions or combination of actions if a permit holder or permitted vessel violates a statute administered by NOAA, or any regulation promulgated or permit condition prescribed thereunder:

(a) *Revocation.* A permit may be cancelled, with or without prejudice to issuance of the permit in the future. Additional requirements for issuance of any future permit may be imposed.

(b) *Suspension.* A permit may be suspended either for a specified period of time or until stated requirements are met, or both. If contingent on stated requirements being met, the suspension is with prejudice to issuance of

any permit until the requirements are met.

(c) *Modification.* A permit may be modified, as by imposing additional conditions and restrictions. If the permit was issued for a foreign fishing vessel under section 204(b) of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act, additional conditions and restrictions may be imposed on the application of the foreign nation involved and on any permits issued under such application.

#### § 904.321 Reinstatement of permit.

(a) A permit suspended for a specified period of time will be reinstated automatically at the end of the period.

(b) A permit suspended until stated requirements are met will be reinstated only by affirmative order of NOAA.

#### § 904.322 Interim action.

(a) To protect marine resources during the pendency of an action under this subpart, in cases of willfulness, or as otherwise required in the interest of public health, welfare, or safety, an Administrative Law Judge may order immediate suspension, modification, or withholding of a permit until a decision is made on the action proposed in a NOPS or NIDP.

(b) The Judge will order interim action under paragraph (a) of this section, only after finding that there exists probable cause to believe that the violation charged in the NOPS or NIDP was committed. The Judge's finding of probable cause, which will be summarized in the order, may be made:

(1) After review of the factual basis of the alleged violation, following an opportunity for the parties to submit their views (orally or in writing, in the Judge's discretion); or

(2) By adoption of an equivalent finding of probable cause or an admission in any administrative or judicial proceeding to which the recipient of the NOPS or NIDP was a party, including, but not limited to, a hearing to arrest or set bond for a vessel in a civil forfeiture action or an arraignment or other hearing in a criminal action. Adoption of a finding or admission under this paragraph may be made only after the Judge reviews pertinent